

Message Text

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50

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00

FEA-02 INT-08 AEC-11 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 NEA-11 SCI-06

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R 281811Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7456

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 01230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: SOAMES ATTACKS BILATERAL OIL DEALS

BEGIN SUMMARY IN A SPEECH IN LONDON ON JANUARY 26,
EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES SHARPLY CRITICIZED
EC MEMBER STATES THAT CONCLUDE BILATERAL OIL DEALS
WITH MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. HE ALSO STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE OF EC MEMBERSHIP FOR THE UK. END SUMMARY
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1. SPEAKING TO THE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL CENTRE, SIR CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT IT WAS A "DANGEROUS TEMPTATION" FOR EACH EC MEMBER TO FEND FOR ITSELF. IT COULD TRIGGER OFF "AN UGLY COMPETITIVE AUCTION OF OIL AGAINST MONEY, OIL AGAINST POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, OIL AGAINST CONVENTIONAL ARMS, OIL AGAINST WHO KNOWS WHAT NEXT. I FEAR THAT IF WE CANNOT UNITE ON THIS ISSUE AND FACE IT TOGETHER IN LOYAL SOLIDARITY, THE LOSS WILL NOT SIMPLY BE ECONOMIC, IT COULD VERY QUICKLY BECOME POLITICAL AS WELL.....NO ONE STANDS TO LOSE MORE FROM THE CRUMBLING OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER THAN THE COMMUNITY, AND NO ONE IN THE COMMUNITY MORE THAN BRITAIN."

2. SIR CHRISTOPHER NOTED THAT THE ANTI-MARKETEERS IN THE UK CLAIM THAT EC MEMBERSHIP IS CONTRIBUTING TO BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. BRITAIN'S PROSPECTS WOULD BE "INFINITELY MORE GRIM" IF IT STOOD ALONE OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY. HE TRIED TO DISPEL THE IDEA THAT THE EC WOULD IN SOME WAY TAKE AWAY BRITAIN'S RESERVES OF NORTH SEA OIL AND GAS. "WE SHALL BE ABLE BOTH TO USE THIS NATURAL RESOURCE OURSELVES AND TO SELL IT AT WORLD PRICES TO OUR PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY, OR TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE IT." SIR CHRISTOPHER ALSO NOTED THAT WORLD PRICES OF MANY FOOD IMPORTS ARE NOTABLY HIGHER THAN EC PRICES.

3. REGARDING THE FRENCH DECISION TO FLOAT THE FRANC, HE SAID THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER NOT TO SLIDE INTO BEGGAR-MY-NEIGHBOR NATIONALISM. IT WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC IF EACH MEMBER STATE LOOKED AT THE COMMUNITY AS SOME SORT OF SLOT MACHINE, AND JUDGED IT BY "HOW LITTLE WE COULD GET AWAY WITH PUTTING IN, AND HOW MUCH OF A JACKPOT WE CAN SOMEHOW GET OUT."

4. IN AN ARTICLE ON SIR CHRISTOPHER'S SPEECH, "THE TIMES" ON JANUARY 28 NOTED "MILD EMBARRASSMENT" AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE OVER HIS ATTACK ON BILATERAL OIL DEALS. SIR ALEC DOUGLAS HOME WAS IN THE AUDIENCE WHEN SIR CHRISTOPHER DELIVERED THE SPEECH.

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5. WE ARE FORWARDING THE TEXT OF SIR CHRISTOPHER'S SPEECH BY AIRGRAM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740112/aaaaaktv.tel
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TAGS: EGEN, UK, XF, EEC, (SOAMES, CHRISTOPHER)
To: STATE
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005